Effect of import of Palm oil on cocounut farmers

1405. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to. state:

(a) the expected supply of palm oil both crude and refined from Malaysia during this year, in lieu of a Railway Construction Project contract over five years;

(b) its impact on coconut oil farmers/producers in India and specially of Karnataka; and

(c) whether coconut farmers, especially in Kerala, recent P.M.'s deal and if so, how they are proposed to be compensated with remunerative prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Indian Railway Construction Company (IRCON) would counter trade approximately 1,60,000 tonnes of palm oil products worth approximately 40 million US dollar during the current year against the ongoing project in hand.

(b) and (c) Due to heavy import of palm oil (CPO and RBD Palmolein) the coconut farmers in the country including the State of Karnataka have been adversely affected due to decline in the prices of coconut and other oilseeds in the domestic market. However, in order to protect the interest of coconut farmers in the country the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) which is the nodal agency for procurement of oilseeds including copra, procured copra on the Minimum Support Prices (MSP).

Cyclone rehabilitation and reconstruction in Orissa

1406. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rehabilitation and reconstruction work has not completed in the cyclone affected areas in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay;

(c) the amount of assistance provided by the Central Government so far towards rehabilitation and reconstruction in 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002; and

(d) the details of the' rehabilitation and reconstruction work undertaken as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Government of Orissa had set up the Orissa State Disaster Mitigation Authority for rehabilitation and reconstruction of the sector affected by the Super Cyclone of October, 1999. The Authority is taking up necessary rehabilitation and reconstruction measures.

(c) and (d) In addition to release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 1999-2000 amounting of Rs. 42.50 crore to Orissa, assistance of Rs. 828.15 crore from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) was released to the State in the wake of floods and cyclones. The Authority is taking up rehabilitation and reconstruction measures in various sectors which include Agriculture, Power, Rural Development, Water Resources, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare, Public tyorks, Education, Health, Fisheries and Animal Resources Development, Industries and Women & Child Development.

Restriction on movement of foodgrains

1407. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite free movement of agro produce envisaged by National Agriculture Policy, there is no free movement of foodgrains in the country and many a States have imposed restrictions in this regard and in other States the movement is restricted even from one district to another;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to ensure free